

### *Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (cancelled).

7. (currently amended) An axle driving apparatus comprising:

a housing including a cavity;

a hydrostatic transmission disposed within said housing cavity, said hydrostatic transmission including a hydraulic pump and a hydraulic motor, said hydraulic motor including an output shaft;

a pair of axles disposed within said housing cavity;

a pair of bevel gears, one disposed on each axle of said pair of axles;

a ring gear coupled to said output shaft of said hydraulic motor; and

a pair of pinion gears disposed within said ring gear and coupled to said pair of bevel gears, whereby said ring gear is supported within said housing by said pair of axles.

Claims 8-12 (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) An axle driving apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a longitudinal axis of said hydraulic pump is disposed a first distance from said axles, and a longitudinal axis of ~~located between~~ said hydraulic motor is disposed a second distance from ~~and said~~ said axles, wherein said first distance is smaller than said second distance.

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RJ*